

**“What did you
say?”**

Dialogue Rules!

What is dialogue?

When do you use it?

We use dialogue in our writing to add **details**,
relive a scene that played out, show what
characters are like through interactions, show
what characters are **thinking**, and more!

1. Begin quotations with a **capital** letter.
2. If the quote comes **before** the person who spoke and tells something, place a comma **after** the quote, before the closing quotation mark.

Ex: "The world is a very big place with seven continents and four oceans," the teacher told the class.

3. If the quote comes after the person who spoke and tells something, place the comma after the person who spoke, before the opening quotation mark.

Ex: Aliyah explained, "We live on the continent of North America."

4. If the quote comes before the person who spoke and asks something, place the question mark after the quote, before the closing quotation mark.

Ex: "Is North America a large continent?" José asked.

5. If the quote comes after the person who spoke and asks something, place the question mark after the quote, before the closing quotation mark.

Ex: Mr. Pantane responded, "Why don't you look it up?"

6. If the quote comes before the person who spoke and shows strong emotion, place the exclamation mark after the quote, before the closing quotation mark.

Ex: "I know, I know!" José exclaimed.

7. If the quote comes after the person who spoke and asks something, place the exclamation mark after the quote, before the closing quotation mark.

Ex: Aliyah interrupted excitedly, "I know that North America is the third largest continent!"

8. A quote separated by the person who spoke is called a split quotation. Begin the first part of a split quotation with a capital letter, and end with a comma. Begin the second part of a split quotation with a lowercase letter. Enclose both parts of the split quotation with quotation marks.

Example: "OK class," said the teacher, "tomorrow we will use the computer and learn more about continents."

Other ways to say said?

replied

reminded

responded

cried

barked

blurted

yelled

begged

screamed

wondered

demanded

thought

laughed

announced

bragged

apologized